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BEN-GURION HOPES FOR POSSIBILITY OF PEACE WITH ARABS DURING DECADE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Hopes for immigration of 1,500,000 Jews from the Soviet Union and for the possibility of a peace settlement with the Arabs during Israel's second decade were expressed today by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

The Prime Minister expressed these views in a letter, made public today, to Yisrael Galilee, a member of Parliament from the left-wing Achdut Avodah party. The Prime Minister urged closing of ranks between workers and pioneering elements of Israel "in view of the fateful period which may prove more decisive than 1948," the year of Israel's creation.

The Prime Minister warned in the letter that Israel may be faced with a "severe and dangerous military test," which made it imperative that Israel muster all of its material, technical, moral and spiritual resources. He also wrote that the immigration he expected from Russia might prove to be the most difficult burden which could only be carried out with the vast resources and cooperation of Jews throughout the world.

Differences of opinion between parties need not prevent cooperation, the Prime Minister said. He added that he deplored election smears which "were shameful and damaging to the workers' unity." The letter was seen in some quarters as a new bid to Achdut Avodah to take part in the next coalition.

Agudah Rejects Bid to Join Cabinet; Ben-Gurion Negotiates with Mapam

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister continued his talks with party leaders for a new coalition, and met today with leaders of the left-wing Mapam with whom he discussed among other coalition questions that of collective Cabinet responsibility of all coalition partners.

It was learned today that the Prime Minister had failed to persuade Mrs. Golda Meir to continue as Foreign Minister in the new government. Authoritative sources said Mrs. Meir's decision could be considered final. It was given to Mr. Ben-Gurion at a private meeting. Mrs. Meir, who will continue public service as a member of Knesset, Israel's Parliament, may be succeeded by Abba Eban, Israel's first Ambassador to the United States.

The ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel and Poale Agudat Israel today rejected a Mapai bid to join in the next coalition. Acting on directives of the joint Agudah Supreme Religious Council, Gedolei Hatorah, party leaders said they could not accept the invitation.

In announcing the rejection, a party spokesman cited a recent meeting of Agudah party leaders with Mr. Ben-Gurion at which several conditions were submitted as a basis for Agudah's participation in the next government. These reportedly included a demand for a national anti-pig law, tighter observance of the present Sabbath law and approval of dissection of corpses only for criminal investigations.

The Agudah stand virtually eliminated possibilities of a small coalition of Mapai with the Agudah parties, the Progressives and the General Zionists.

A coalition of religious groups with Herut in the Jerusalem Council, which will give the capital an Orthodox mayor for the next four years, emerged here tonight.

After lengthy negotiations between the National Religious party and Agudat Israel, the latter decided to abandon Mapai and accept Herut's offer of support. The agreement reportedly provides for a rotating mayorship in which the Mizrahi Council member Ernest Nebenzahl would serve two years with Moshe Porush of the Agudat Israel serving the other two years.

ISRAEL RELEASES LEBANESE PLANE; WAS INTERCEPTED OVER ISRAEL TERRITORY

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Israel authorities today released the pilot, passengers and Lebanese passenger plane which was intercepted this morning over Israel by Israel fighter aircraft. An Israel military spokesman said the plane, with its four passengers, took off for Beirut, its original destination, after an investigation at the Haifa airport.

The plane, which had been chartered by a British firm operating in Lebanon and Jordan, was driven by a British pilot, who said he had drifted off course because of faulty instruments. Two of the passengers were a British couple, one a New Zealander and one a Lebanese. The flight started at Port Said.

INDIA AND INDONESIA SUPPORT ARABS IN U.N. DEBATE ON REFUGEE ISSUE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Two members of the Afro-Asian bloc-- India and Indonesia--spoke up here today in the protracted debate of the Arab refugee problem, both speakers going right down the Arab line by calling for repatriation of the refugees in Israeli territory and by rejecting completely Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's plan for integration of the refugees into the productive economies of the Middle East.

Chandra S. Jha, chairman of the Indian delegation, insisted that the United Nations must "stand steadfastly" by the principles of a resolution adopted in 1948 calling for repatriation of the Arab refugees. Like the Arab spokesman, who had preceded him, Ambassador Jha practically ignored other clauses in that same 1948 resolution which offered integration and resettlement of the refugees as alternatives to repatriation.

As to the Hammarskjold plan, Mr. Jha said, its implementation "could bring great danger to the peace and stability of the Middle East." In regard to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine refugees, whose mandate expires next June 30, Mr. Jha called for the continuation of the UNRWA activities.

Dr. Ali Sastroamidjojo, chairman of the Indonesian delegation, took a similar course and supported the entire Arab thesis that repatriation of all the refugees is the only valid solution of the problem. He too opposed the Hammarskjold plan, declaring that "their economic integration in the Arab lands would only increase their concern and lessen their confidence in the United Nations."

After listening to these two speakers, the Committee adjourned until tomorrow morning. As yet not a single neutral delegation has spoken, all of them waiting for some clue to the United States attitude--while the U.S. delegation continued sitting tight, refusing to reveal its hand.

U. J. A. MISSION URGES U.S. JEWRY TO RETAIN PRINCIPLE OF 'EXTRA GIVING'

HAIFA, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- A call to American Jewry to retain the "principle of extra giving" to the United Jewish Appeal, over and above regular contributions, was issued last night in a special resolution approved by the 115-man UJA study mission here.

The resolution, which was read at a final dinner meeting of the mission in Israel by Albert Levin of Cleveland, a national UJA chairman, noted in its recommendations to the UJA national convention that while Israel displays many outward signs of success, there are still unmet needs of immigrants in the solution of which American Jewry is sharing responsibility with Israel.

Levi Eshkol, Israel Finance Minister, told the dinner that Israel had decided to launch the Jordan River irrigation project and that this will need about \$100,000,000 for the first five-year stage. He also asserted that Israel needed \$200,000,000 to consolidate existing agricultural settlements.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice president, summed up Israel's most pressing "unmet needs" of immigrants with a report that 60,000 immigrants still lived in transit camps, thousands lived in equally miserable slums, the majority of Israel's new immigrants are farmers who cannot yet earn a living from farms for lack of water and implements, thousands of new immigrants are young people who cannot get a secondary education, and a large number are aged and handicapped still lacking all the help they need.

U. N. BODY APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH ARAB LEAGUE; ISRAEL DISENTS

ROME, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The General Assembly of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization approved today an agreement with the Arab League recognizing the League as spokesman for its member states in the Middle East but not as the regional organization for the area for FAO programs.

In the absence of the French delegation, which was unwilling to participate in approval of the agreement, Israel registered the only objection. Israel opposed the amended agreement, even though it marked defeat for the Arab League's bid for recognition by the FAO as a regional body because Israel opposes FAO agreements with any political organization.

Gideon Raphael, the Israel delegate, told the plenary session that the FAO "should be careful when considering formal association with a political organization, particularly when its policies are directed against member states" of the UN "in violation of the UN charter and FAO constitution."

"We welcome FAO activities in Arab countries if these are designed to raise living standards," Mr. Raphael said, "but our experience shows that these objectives are not promoted by formal FAO association with a political body which constitutes one of the main obstacles to their attainment."

ISRAEL AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman today met with Acting Assistant Secretary of State Parker Hart for a routine discussion of matters of mutual interest to the two governments.

\$3,860,000 RAISED AT U.A.H.C. CONVENTION FOR DEVELOPMENT FUND DRIVE

MIAMI BEACH, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- More than 325 lay and rabbinic leaders of the Reform branch of Judaism today contributed a total of \$3,860,000 in capital gifts to launch a special three-year drive for \$15,000,000 to make possible a radical nationwide physical development of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the central national institutions of the Reform Jewish movement.

The action came on the final day at a luncheon session of the 45th biennial general assembly of the UAHC, meeting here since Sunday evening with more than 3,000 delegates representing Reform congregations throughout the western Hemisphere.

The gifts announced at the session were made to the Development Fund for American Judaism, a special agency created two months ago by the UAHC and HUC-JIR and incorporated in the State of New York. Max L. Koeppel, of New York, a member of the UAHC's board of trustees, is chairman, with former Senator Herbert H. Lehman, serving as honorary chairman.

Three contributions of \$250,000 each, with many others ranging from a low of \$25,000 to over \$150,000 were announced at the luncheon. All the gifts came from members of the governing boards of the two institutions, and from two mass affiliates of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods pledged \$1,000,000 and \$250,000 was pledged by the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods.

The Rev. Dr. Nathan A. Perilman, rabbi of Temple Emanu-El of New York, announced that his ministerial colleagues, numbering over 675 Reform Jewish spiritual leaders, each have pledged a full month's pay to the new Fund for a total of \$500,000.

The \$15,000,000 Development Fund drive will be conducted alongside the Reform movement's annual effort for maintenance of the two institutions. The maintenance effort, known as the Combined Campaign for American Reform Judaism, was launched here on Tuesday with a 1959-60 goal of \$3,558,000.

The 3,000 delegates established a record attendance for a Jewish convention. The next biennial assemblies will be held in Washington, D. C. in 1961 and in Chicago in 1963. The board of trustees of the UAHC unanimously adopted a new slate of officers. Named as chairman of the board was former Supreme Court Justice of the State of New York, Emil N. Baar, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Judge Baar succeeds Judge Solomon B. Elsner of Hartford, Connecticut.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DECIDES TO HOLD ITS NEXT CONVENTION IN JERUSALEM

KIAMESHA LAKE, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The United Synagogue of America, central body of Conservative Jewry in this country, today concluded its five-day convention here with a decision to hold its next biennial convention, in 1961, in Jerusalem. The decision was made as a mark of solidarity with the State of Israel.

In the closing hours, Congregation Ohavi Tzedek of Burlington, Vermont, touched by the plight of Jewish communities throughout the world which are without rabbis and Jewish teachers, announced the establishment of a \$25,000 scholarship fund to train leaders from abroad.

The decision to set up the fund was made during sessions of the constitutional convention of the World Council of Synagogues, held concurrently with the United Synagogue convention. The Burlington delegation had listened to reports from delegates of 16 countries represented at the Council founding convention, and to a report given by Baruch Benjamin, of New Delhi, India.

Mr. Benjamin is the leader of the Bene Israel community which, according to tradition, stems from refugees of the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem more than 2,000 years ago. He had told of the spiritual and financial difficulties facing this community and expressed the hope that one of his three sons might come to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York to become a rabbi, but could not see how this would be possible financially.

A special Solomon Schechter Award was given to the Canadian Jewish Congress in honor of Canadian Jewry's 200th anniversary. The award was addressed to Samuel Bronfman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Lavy Becker, vice-president of the CJC, accepted for Mr. Bronfman. The Solomon Schechter awards were established in memory of the founder of the United Synagogue of America.

SYDNEY NELSON NAMED DIRECTOR FOR J. D. C. RELIEF OPERATIONS IN FRANCE

PARIS, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The appointment of Sydney Nelson, Joint Distribution Committee director for Latin America, as director of JDC operations in France, was announced here today by Charles H. Jordan, JDC director general.

A native of New York, Mr. Nelson taught sociology in several American universities and directed YMHA's in Buffalo, N. Y., and New Haven, Connecticut, before joining the JDC.

U.S. JEWS WARNED AGAINST 'THE NEW ASSIMILATIONISM'; JEWISH UNITY URGED

BOSTON, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, warned yesterday against "the new assimilationism--a kind of vicarious Jewish living by those who believe in international Jewish philanthropy and other good works without having any Jewish commitment themselves." He spoke at the final session of the national biennial convention of the American Jewish Congress Women's Division here.

"Identification with the Jewish people around the world and with Israel cannot be divorced from our Jewish commitment in our own lives and in our own country," Dr. Prinz declared. However, he added that "the concept of Jewish peoplehood--the unity of the Jewish people around the world--must stand as the basic principle of Jewish identification and as a motivating factor of Jewish communal life here and abroad."

In resolutions adopted at the closing session of their four-day convention, the American Jewish Congress women called for vigorous action to keep religion out of the public schools, and urged the U.S. Government to denounce the Arab boycott "as a measure of economic warfare constituting a threat to international peace." They also asked that all U.S. treaties and executive agreements with foreign powers bar racial and religious discrimination against American citizens. Mrs. Thelma Richman of Philadelphia was reelected national president for a third two-year term.

NATIONWIDE OBSERVANCE OF JEWISH BOOK MONTH STARTS TODAY

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The 16th annual observance of Jewish Book Month begins tomorrow, it was announced by Dr. A. Alan Steinbach, president of the Jewish Book Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Community-wide Jewish Book Month events--many under the leadership of Jewish Community Centers, local Jewish book councils, and Jewish community councils--include significant exhibits of current books and rare manuscripts, book fairs, literary contests involving children of religious schools and Jewish Community Centers, Book Sabbath programs and authors' receptions. Also slated are book dramatizations, book reviews, panel discussions and radio and television events.

Jewish Book Month will also be marked at many military posts in the U.S. and overseas, and in veterans hospitals. Large numbers of books of Jewish interest are being shipped to military posts and veterans hospitals in honor of the Month. The books will serve to start a Jewish library at these facilities or augment the existing stocks of Jewish books on the shelves of Jewish chaplains' libraries.

In calling on Jewish organizations to take part in Jewish Book Month, Dr. Steinbach said that more than 1,000 Jewish organizations are planning to participate. "As we renew our friendships," he said, "with such literary notables as Sholom Aleichem, Peretz, Bialik, Maimonides, Halevi, Spinoza or Rabbeinu Gershom, our minds are improved, our insights sharpened and our hearts made purer."

The Jewish Book Month will note the anniversaries of the births and deaths of a number of Jewish scholars, historians, poets, rabbis, philosophers and teachers. Among those to be honored are the noted Hebrew poet, Hayim Nahman Bialik, on the 25th anniversary of his death; Rabbeinu Gershom, medieval scholar, who was born 1,000 years ago; Judah Abravanel, Iberian philosopher, born in 1459; and Isaac Baer Levinson, grammarian and savant who died a century ago.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS WILL NEED 1,600 NEW TRAINED WORKERS IN DECADE

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Approximately 1,600 new workers will be needed by Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHAs in the next ten years, it was reported today by Sigmund M. Cohen, chairman of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Bureau of Personnel and Training. At present more than 1,500 professional workers are employed in the community centers.

The figure of 1,600 new workers who will be needed in the next decade was arrived at on the basis of the following facts: 1. Centers need approximately 100 workers a year to meet the expansion and intensification of services and to replace workers who have retired, left to become mothers, or transferred to other jobs; 2. A hard core of 200 unfilled vacancies exists at present, and 3. At least 400 additional workers will be needed by the hundred Centers planning new buildings in the next ten years.

Of the 1,600 vacancies that will be created, more than 1,000 will remain unfilled unless the number of new workers entering the Center field grows substantially, Mr. Cohen warned in his report to the JWB executive committee. At the present time, only 40 to 50 Jewish group work students enter the Center field each year after graduation from schools of social work, he said.

Henry N. Sachs, chairman of the National Recruitment Committee, reported a growing interest in Center work as a career. This is reflected in the fact that the number of inquiries received by the JWB Bureau--800--is the largest received in any one year. In addition to the 800, the names of nearly 600 other persons were received by the Bureau as being interested in career opportunities in Center work and the availability of financial aid for the required graduate professional education.